



HOWNIIKAN

Kchemkogises / January 2017

Top Photo: Snow covered trees in the Valles Caldera National Preserve in northern New Mexico.

Employee loan program



CPCDC program finances automobile loans for tribal employees.

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Trip to Gathering requires a U.S. passport



Attendees hoping to attend this year's Gathering of Potawatomi Nations in Canada will need a U.S. passport to cross the border.

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National Museum of American Indian to raise funds for veteran memorial

There are 140,000 living Indigenous veterans in the United States today and 31,000 active Native American soldiers. Although tribal members serve in larger numbers than all other ethnicities, there is no place to honor this service nationally.

The United States Congress has authorized the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian to build a national Native American veterans memorial on the National Mall in Washington D.C. The memorial will be the first to honor Native American, Native Hawaiian and Alaska Native service members.

"This project is important because our visitors coming to the museum don't really understand the role that Native American veterans have played in our country's history," said NMAI Assistant Director of Advancement Elaine Webster. "Indigenous people have served in every conflict since the Revolution, but there is no place on the National Mall to honor their service and this will be that opportunity."

Congress, while mandating the project, did not give financial support, so the staff at NMAI is relying on private fundraising to make it happen.

CPN contributed \$100,000 to the project and will be recognized with a donor plaque at the memorial site and will be given the opportunity to host the banner exhibition. Tribes can get involved by hosting a banner exhibition at their local cultural centers and providing oral histories of



Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett and Elaine Webster of NMAI sign an agreement to help fund the veterans memorial.

Native American veterans. In 2017, Indigenous artists can also participate in the design competition.

"We are in the process of consulting with tribes across the nation and have been doing so for more than one year," Webster said. "We are going to all regions of the country to determine what should be in the memorial. As we have been doing these community consultations, it has become very clear that this is an opportunity for all tribes to honor their veterans and one of the ways they can do this is by contributing monetarily to the project."

The proposed project is unique because the memorial will be outside of the museum so visitors can see it anytime, day or night. The National

Mall, located in between the U.S. Capitol Building and the Air and Space Museum, gets 24 million visitors per year, making the planned memorial a great addition to the experience many guests seek.

Additional components of this project include programming each Memorial Day and Veteran's Day, an oral history project, a traveling exhibition and an interactive website to highlight the contributions of Native American veterans throughout history.

The projected completion date is Veteran's Day 2020. To get involved, make a contribution or sign up to get email updates about the project, visit americanindian.si.edu.

Tribal employees give back during the holiday season

The holiday season is a time of giving and receiving. Many Citizen Potawatomi Nation enterprises and employees gave to local community members and organizations, serving them in their time of need during Thanksgiving and Christmas 2016.

In November, CPN employees raised more than \$1,300 during the annual silent auction to assist a tribal family that accrued extensive medical expenses in 2016. Employees were asked to donate handmade or purchased items and bid on their favorites. More than 50 gifts ranging from Christmas décor to children's toys were auctioned off.

Additionally, the CPN Employment and Training Department asked em-

ployees for food donations to fill more than 300 baskets for clients in need. CPN employees donated 2,768 pounds of food for dinner boxes on Thanksgiving and more than 3,000 pounds for Christmas.

The CPN Department of Education donated the most food for the Thanksgiving contest at 74 pounds given per staff member. The public information department came in second place with 58 pounds per person and the accounting department had the largest pound total at 803 pounds, but came in third place in terms of donations per staff members.

"We would like to thank everyone who participated in the food drive this year," Employment and Training

Social Services and Intensive Employment Case Manager Gina Bundy said. "We had an amazing show of support and received more donations than we have ever seen. I really want to recognize the departments that put out the effort as we would not be able to do it without you."

Each year, Firelake Discount Foods provides traditional Thanksgiving food to the Shawnee Rescue Mission food pantry for their clients in November. In 2016, FDF supplied 400 turkeys and 500 hams for Shawnee Rescue Mission's Thanksgiving event.

Continued on page 5

Conservation Law Enforcement Officer Eric Reed patrols remote tribal properties

Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s integrated resource management plan focuses on how the tribe manages its land, water, minerals and natural environments to sustain these resources for future generations. Tribal Conservation Law Enforcement Officer Eric Reed is an integral part of this plan’s implementation, serving as a combined law enforcement officer, game warden and conservationist for CPN properties.

These holdings, strewn across parts of Pottawatomie, Cleveland and Oklahoma counties, all lie in the tribe’s historical jurisdiction established in the 1800s prior to statehood. Yet they aren’t contiguous, leaving them open to trespassers.

“Such scattered parcels become targets for poachers, rustlers, drug dealers, meth labs, pot farms and many other illegal activities,” explained Charles Meloy, director of the CPN Realty Department, who oversees the grant that funds Reed’s work. “In addition, with so many scattered parcels it is difficult for property management personnel to visit the sites on a regular basis to oversee and provide proper oversight and management.”

With respect to these issues, Reed is experienced. Prior to serving as the tribe’s conservation officer, he worked as a patrol officer for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Police Department. Originally from Crowder, Oklahoma, he comes from a long line of law enforcement professionals, including his brother and

several cousins and had been with the CPNPD since 1999. He is also currently commissioned with the Pottawatomie County Sheriff’s Office Warrant Team, a multiagency unit that serves high-risk felony warrants and works with the U.S. Marshall Service.

In changing from a patrol officer to his current role in July 2015, Reed mentioned that one particular facet of the work stood out to him.

“I just like being outdoors, the wild-life side of it, the game warden responsibilities,” Reed said. “I wanted to head in a new direction and I had worked with the game warden here in Pottawatomie County.”

Reed said his hours can vary depending on what the day calls for, working four or five hours very early in the morning before going home and then later returning in the evening. Much of his work involves patrolling the tribal allotments in southern portions of Pottawatomie County to ensure there are no trespassers or illegal hunting.

If he finds equipment set up, he will seize it and bring it to tribal headquarters. If it was there legally, it will be returned to the owner, but if it was set up by trespassers they have the option of paying a fine to get their equipment back. Offenders also have the option of surrendering their equipment in lieu of a fine.

Isolation and distance from backup as he patrols largely rural and remote parts of the tribe’s properties are a regular part of the job.



Eric Reed

“The most challenging part is being by yourself. I’m 20-25 miles away from the police department, if something happens, I have to be able to deal with it and take care of it until someone can get there to help me out.”

So far, Reed said that he hasn’t run into trespassers, finding mostly illegally placed hunting equipment.

“It’s hit and miss, because there’s roughly 11,000 acres that I look after, and that’s just what they call ‘checkerboard land’. You might have 80 acres over here, and 20 miles away you have 160 acres and it’s real difficult to catch somebody on the property.”

One of his other, and arguably more important responsibilities in terms of its long term impact, is monitoring mineral rights such as oil leases on

tribal land. He checks the pump jacks and oil tanks on tribal property, for leaks or spills, notifying lease owners and energy companies to come clean up if needed.

Realty Director Charles Meloy explained the importance of Reed’s work as a conservation law enforcement officer for the Nation.

“The CLEO is a part of the team of people responsible for overseeing the long term management, enhancement and production from tribal lands. He is frequently the first to see and report on conditions needing attention on the many properties owned by CPN and is the communicator between several of the tribe’s departments, local law enforcement, state wildlife management personnel and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.”

Johnson battles cancer with support from coworkers at child development center

Shelley Johnson has been an assistant teacher at Citizen Potawatomi Nation Child Development Center for more than a decade. When she was hired, she began working in the infant room, but now teaches the three-year-olds alongside two master teachers.

In July 2016, Johnson was diagnosed with breast cancer that spread to her lymph nodes. Shortly after, she underwent surgery to remove the tumor and started her first round of chemotherapy on August 26. She started her second round on November 18 and has a surgery scheduled to remove the remaining three lymph nodes.

“Shelley is a great teacher with a lot of compassion for the children,” said CPN Child Development Center Director Donnette Littlehead. “She has been with me for more than 13 years and with everything she is fighting with personally, she is always wondering if everything

is OK in her classroom. I could not ask for a better teacher than her. She is family within the child development center; we all love her so much.”

Johnson expresses the same feelings towards the children and employees at the child development center. She could not imagine doing anything besides working with children.

“I’ve been working with kids my whole life,” Johnson said. “Teaching my three-year-olds brightens my day while I’ve been going through treatment and the staff at the child development center is wonderful.”

Johnson lives in Tecumseh with her daughter Kira Wakolee, 18, son Kalani Johnson, 6, and husband of four years Richard Johnson, who she says has been a fantastic support system during the time of her illness.

“My husband has been to all of my doctor’s visits on top of working



Shelley Johnson

night shift in Oklahoma City full time,” Johnson said. “He has never missed an appointment.”

On top of her supportive family, she also has people who care about her at work as well. Johnson has worked

alongside Megan Walker for the 13 years she has been employed with CPN.

“Shelley is very dedicated to her job and the kids,” Walker said. “Even in the last six months with everything that is going on with her cancer diagnosis, she was working every day that she felt well enough. She is always thinking of others.”

With a second surgery and another six weeks of radiation ahead of her, she feels blessed to be working at the child development center.

“CPN is a great place to work. The people I work with have been like family and go out of their way to help,” Johnson said.

To learn more about working for CPN, please visit www.firelake-jobs.com.

New psychologist Dr. Jessica Brody joins CPN Behavioral Health

Following the [expanded funding for tribal youth behavioral health](#), CPN Health Services and the behavioral health department recently added another psychologist to its roster in the fall.

Dr. Jessica Brody comes to CPN following her tenure with the U.S. Veterans Administration in Oklahoma City. While the VA had been her professional home for some time, Brody was in search of new career challenges and received CPN Behavioral Health Coordinator Dr. Glenna Stumblingbear-Riddle's email to a local professional network telling of the opening.

"I think I may have answered it within one minute of seeing the email," Dr. Brody explained with a laugh. "Diversity issues are very important to me, and I'd heard so many good things about Dr. Stumblingbear and what she's done, I wanted to explore that option."

The behavioral health clinic is one of the tribal health services' most frequently used programs, last year having approximately 8,400 office visits. With the addition of a second psychologist, more people will be reached while maintaining the CPN Health Services' high quality of care.

"It is very exciting and I am thankful we are able to add to our clinical behavioral health team," said CPN Behavioral Health Coordinator Dr. Stumblingbear-Riddle. "Having another psychologist on board helps us to continue to expand our scope of services and treatments we can offer to help meet the needs of the people we serve."



Dr. Jessica Brody

Dr. Brody noted that her focus on diversity issues stems from her belief that equal rights, including treatment in the healthcare sector, are vital, especially to marginalized groups with a history of trauma.

"Dr. Brody comes to us from the VA with a strong skill set," noted Dr. Stumblingbear-Riddle. "She will see all patients but with particular focus on treatments specific to health psychology and integrated care such as depression that impacts diabetes and insomnia and various forms of trauma exposure such as sexual assault and much more."

Women's issues, specifically with regards to reproductive and mental health, are something Dr. Brody is passionate about. While a term like "women's issues" tends to link to contemporary constructs tied to the culture wars and the debate over abortion, she pointed out that the breadth of the issue is far wider.

"It's so much more than that in terms of behavioral health because it involves helping women who are struggling with infertility, pregnancy loss or post-partum depression."

Dr. Brody is originally from Oklahoma City, where she still resides, and is thrice a graduate of the University of Oklahoma. She holds a BA in Psychology, ME in Community Counseling and a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology.

While this is her first instance of working for a tribal health service, she is confident that her background and previous experiences as a psychologist and counselor will fit with the behavioral health program's mission.

"I don't think you can come into this work without knowing how to do trauma-informed care," she said. "There are a lot of traumas people

have experienced and that was one of the pulls for me, I enjoy doing trauma work."

At Citizen Potawatomi Nation, which primarily serves all Native Americans living inside the tribe's jurisdiction, Brody's work will be focused on treating symptoms left by historical trauma.

"As part of my own cultural identity, there is a strong history of historical and cultural trauma, so that's always been something that is near and dear to my heart. The impact of how trauma can be passed from generations."

To learn more about services offered by the CPN Behavioral Health Program, please call (405) 214-5101.

VISIT US ONLINE!



Tribal member raises money for local Boys and Girls Club with board breaking fundraiser

Fundraisers are a part of life for non-profit organizations, and the format for these vital funds are as varied as the organizations they serve. One CPN member from the Rhodd family, Katherine Brice of Evansville, Indiana, decided to take action using a unique fundraising skill for one of her hometown's local charities using the tools she had at hand.

Brice, a third-degree black belt and taekwondo instructor, learned about the important role the Evansville Boys and Girls Club has in serving at-risk youth there. The organization was in danger of a funding shortfall, and Brice decided to use her martial arts skills to help support their work.

"My mom told me that the Boys and Girls Club funding was cut by the government. This made me interested and I wanted to find a way to help," said Brice.

Called a "break-a-thon," local martial artists and students set a goal of

how many boards they would break and then request a donation from supporters and sponsors to match the numbers broken.

Younger students were able to participate by kicking or punching through pre-cut boards, allowing them to enhance their technique, have fun and raise funds for a good cause all at the same time.

"They come in smiling, so proud, and they're like, yay, I get to break boards," Brice told a local news channel who came to film the event. "And they probably don't realize that what they're doing is actually going for a really good cause. They're just happy to get out here, break boards. And when they're here they're just loving it, and then at the same time, they're helping someone else by having fun."

Once the boards were broken, the funds were totaled and Brice and her fellow martial artists raised \$1,600 for the Evansville Boys and Girls Club.



Katherine Brice with Executive Director Ron Ryan of the Boys and Girls Club of Evansville presenting a check for \$1,600.

Brice said that though her initial goal was to raise \$2,000, she was not disappointed with the results because it was the first year to host the fundraiser. She said that she hoped the break-a-thon would become an annual event for the Boys and Girls Club,

helping support their unceasing efforts to serve Evansville's at-risk youth. This coming year she plans on planning it and a separate break-a-thon for another local non-profit organization.

Citizen Potawatomi elected in Murray County

As home to the Chickasaw Nation's Artesian Hotel, Murray County, Oklahoma has been held up as an example of positive relations between tribal nations and local governments that benefit rural Oklahoma communities. Following Election Day 2016, newly elected Murray County Clerk and Citizen Potawatomi tribal member Jill Jones Hall will be playing a leading role in furthering the county government's role in serving its people.

Hall is a longtime employee of the county clerk's office and decided to run following the death of her longtime boss and then-county clerk, David Thompson, in May 2015. Thompson had served 30 years in his position and his replacement was named by the county commissioners after his passing.

"The county commissioners appointed someone else and I thought

I could do the job due to my long time working there," Hall explained.

She initially joined the county clerk's office under Thompson in 1990 and has been there ever since.

Oklahoma county clerks are responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of records, paperwork and other administrative duties needed to keep the county government and services running. The county government has elected officials, county commissioners, but the routine business of the county is supervised through administrative services from the clerk's office.

While Hall ran as a Republican, the Smith family descendent emphasized that partisanship wasn't a main concern when it came to serving the people of the county.

"I have always set politics aside while working with elected officials so that all offices work together for



*Jill Jones Hall with Judge Aaron Duck after being sworn in.
Photo courtesy of The Davis News.*

the benefit of the residents of Murray County," she noted.

Mirroring a trend in Oklahoma's former "Little Dixie" Democrat heartland, the Sulphur Republican defeated Democrat Kevin Davenport by a vote total of 3,537 to 1,948.

In a notice to the voters after the election, Hall wrote "It's easy to see why Murray County is such a great place to live. We are a community of people who, regardless of our political beliefs, care about each other and the county as a whole."

"Traditional is healthy," a Rekindling 7 Generations program update: January 2017

By Lakota Pochedley,
CPN Cultural Education Specialist

For the month of November, Rekindling 7 Generations youth celebrated Native American Heritage Month with several events centered around the theme, "Traditional is Healthy." Rekindling 7 Generations partnered with the Etem Omvlkusen UNITY Council to host an NB3FIT Day event. NB3FIT Day is a national event led by the Notah Begay III Foundation. Their goal was to engage 10,000 Native youth in physical activity for a minimum of one hour on one day throughout the country. With 115 registered events across the United States, the Notah Begay III Foundation was able to reach their goal!

At our event hosted at Konawa Schools, we had around 70 participants come out and play four traditional games: southeastern stickball, *peskia* (double-ball), Indian football, and *pegnegewen* (Potawatomi stickball). We asked several attendees about their favorite part of the day.

Andee, an EOUC member, explained, "Really I loved experiencing other traditional games and getting a chance to share my own. It made me feel proud to know my roots and seeing others enjoying it as well. It felt good with all that smiling."

EOUC co-advisor and CPN Employee Michael Logan, replied "I

enjoyed just the way different parts of the community came out to enjoy the day - young, old, locals, others from different counties, and multiple tribes."

Mother of two of our participants, parents, Rhonda Rhodd, said "My favorite part of NB3FIT day was the unity of all different tribal youth coming together and participating in traditional games. I enjoyed watching all the youth of all ages playing these traditional games. There was lots of running! It was a great day. Hearing the youth laugh and their pats on the back were some of my favorite things of the day!"

Later on in the month, we hosted a Native Youth Summit during Thanksgiving Break where Native youth, ages 9-15, were able to play and learn more about these traditional sports. A central focus of the youth summit was understanding overall wellness - by maintaining a balance between emotional, physical, spiritual and cultural wellness. Youth participants received tours of the CPN Cultural Heritage Center's progressing veteran's exhibit and the CPN Eagle Aviary where we discussed the importance of eagles as our prayer warriors in Potawatomi culture.

On the second day of the summit, tribal elders joined us for lunch. We partnered with the diabetes and Healthy Heart programs to cook traditional foods and dishes, some



Jamie Walker, CJ Shaw, David Lankford and Hannah Camron play peskia.

of which were harvested from our community garden. Several youth planned on taking their cooking skills home to prepare several of the dishes, including corn soup and berry rice, for their thanksgiving dinners with family. When asked what was their favorite part of both events, our participants were again enthusiastic.

Hannah, who is both a R7G participant and EOUC member, responded, "Everything! And I love how we still play the games that our ancestors played (just not as hardcore)."

Fellow R7G participant and EOUC member, Desiree, answered, "I loved playing the games at both events and spending time with everyone."

For the month of December we invited several CPN employees to present on traditional and modern art forms as a part of our Winter Arts Workshop during winter break. Read about the workshop from a youth participant's perspective in the February Hownikan!

We encourage everyone to like our Facebook Page, [facebook.com/R7Gen/](https://www.facebook.com/R7Gen/) to stay up to date about all our workshops, classes, and community events. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Lakota.Pochedley@potawatomi.org or 405-878-5830. All our programs are Potawatomi and Native preference.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 4** Boys' Drumming (Shawnee), CHC, 6 pm - 7:30 pm
- January 9-10** Traditional Art & Skills Group (Shawnee), CHC, 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm
- January 11-12** Traditional Art & Skills Group (SPC), Konawa, 3:15 pm - 5:30 pm
- January 13** Boys' Drumming & Girls' Talking Circle (SPC), Konawa, 3:15 pm - 5 pm
- January 17-19** Creative Writing Workshop (SPC), Konawa, 3:15 pm - 6 pm

CPN Community Garden update: January 2017

Although January is not the peak time for gardening, it is the perfect time to start planning for the 2017 garden. The CPN Community Garden will be moving to a plot of land behind the Sharp House for the 2017 season.

“One major benefit to the new location is that the community will have more convenient access. This means that they will not be limited to only Tuesday and Thursday volunteer workdays,” Assistant Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Andrew Gourd said. “Also, when the Potawatomi Leadership Program students are living in the Sharp House during the summer, they will have daily access to the garden at a critical time. The goal is to manage to get all of the okra and tomatoes harvested without any loss.”

The main gardening workdays will continue to be Tuesday and Thursday from 3-7 p.m. This is the best time for new volunteers to take a tour and become acquainted with the space and daily chores. After that they will be welcome to check in and work any day of the week.

Along with volunteer workdays, several events are on the calendar for 2017. The main events are community planting around spring break, a

community education event and early spring harvest in April, community milkweed planting in May and summer harvest in June. There are plans to have several youth volunteer days and outreach events with St. Gregory’s students.

“Our main goal for the spring is to get acquainted with the new space and learn its personality,” Gourd explained. “It has very different conditions than our previous location. We also hope to have all of our storage and growing buildings erected and in use before our planting day in March.”

Along with the greenhouse and other maintenance buildings that have been moved from the previous location, a hoop house also arrived at the new garden in November. This hoop house was purchased with funds from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant obtained by Monarch Watch, the Euchee Butterfly Farm and seven Native American tribes in Oklahoma.

“We are one of seven tribes participating in monarch habitat restoration in the state,” Gourd said. “We are in a critical zone, essential for the refueling of the insect on their way to Mexico in the fall and for the first generation of monarchs produced in



Assistant Tribal Historical Preservation Officer Andrew Gourd planted pear and apple trees at the new CPN Community Garden.

the spring after the butterflies leave Mexico. This hoop house is where we will grow native Oklahoma plant species they use for nectar and laying eggs.”

The cultural heritage center staff seeks to incorporate cultural practices and programming into this new space, including teaching elders and youth how to plant a three sister’s garden.

“Three sisters is the traditional method of growing the food that sustains our people. It involves planting corn, beans and squash in a mound together,” Gourd described. “They each contribute to the success of one an-

other. Corn provides growth for bean vine, bean vine fixes nitrogen in soil for corn and squash, squash shades out weeds and keeps moisture in the soil for all three. All do much better in the presence of one another, as well as provide all the essential nutrients needed for human survival. These plants were a gift given by the Creator to teach that cooperation is essential for survival, but that we all have different roles to play.”

For more information about how to get involved in the CPN Community Garden, please visit the [“Gtegemem: CPN Community Garden” Facebook page](#).

CPN Legislative update: December 2016

The CPN Legislature met on December 8 for their final meeting of 2016, with all legislators in attendance.

Following approval of the September 22 legislative meeting minutes, tribal legislators approved the moving of the meeting to December 8.

In tribal citizenship updates, the legislature approved resolutions of conditional relinquishment of CPN membership to Calvin Bryce Hollingsworth, Michael Leonard Covington, Jace Daren Hosp and

Patricia Ann Tomlin Tripp. The body next approved the enrollment of 438 applicants into the tribe.

Resolutions in support of federal funding grant programs were also approved for Bureau of Indian Affairs Trust Services Attorney Fees and Litigation Support Program, BIA support for the CPN Eagle Aviary Operations Project, Institute of Museum and Library Services’ Program and the BIA’s Wildlife Warriors Project. Resolutions were also passed supporting the tribe’s application for funding from the BIA’s Tribal Youth

Program Operations project, Workforce Development 477 Program, a special Diabetes Funding Program under Indian Health Services along with a grant proposal for the Title VI Indian Elders Program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Grant funds available to combat invasive species and the CPN Community Garden were also requested following passage of resolutions from the BIA and U.S. Department of Agriculture respectively.

After a short recess and executive session, tribal legislators passed an ordinance creating the CPN Parks, Recreation and Cultural Authority by a vote of 15 in favor and one opposed.

An amendment to Title 7 of the CPN Tribal Code was passed with all legislators in favor before an adjournment was called.

To keep up with the latest CPN Legislative news, please visit www.potawatomi.org.

Holiday giving continued...

More than 1,000 people were served during this event. Shawnee Rescue Mission’s goal is to help the homeless all year round, but the busiest months are November and December before major holidays. With no salaried employees or government funding, Shawnee Rescue Mission welcomes food drives, winter clothes, hygiene products and volunteers each Friday.

“If it wasn’t for this, my family wouldn’t have a Thanksgiving. We will be feeding my parents, three boys, brother, nephew, daughter and son-in-law,” Samantha Samples said with her son Trevor, age four, sitting beside her. “I know a lot of people who would have nothing during the holidays and this place helps them a lot.”

Firelake Discount Foods helped make it a “Christmas to Remember”

for families in the community by providing \$5,000 toward food and gifts to families who have recently experienced hardship.

Additionally, FireLake Discount Foods donated a basket of food for each of the 350 families at the Salvation Army Angel Tree Christmas event. Each family received bread, eggs, ham, milk and fruit while they picked up their family’s gifts and a box of canned food.

Employees from the Grand Casino Hotel Resort gave back during their annual Christmas party. More than \$2,500 and 500 toys were donated to local organizations like the Salvation Army’s Angel Tree Program, Boys and Girls Club, Muscular Dystrophy Association and CPN Child Development Center. For each toy or ten dollar bill donated, the employee’s name is put into a drawing for prizes, like flat screen televisions and gift cards.

“Our employees love it,” Grand Casino Hotel Resort Director Joe Garcia said. “They love to give back to those who are in need during the holidays and get really excited about this event each year. We’ve been doing this annually for more than a decade.”

Tribally-owned radio station KGFF FM/AM collected blankets from listeners and community members to give to elder programs in Pottawatomie County. They also donated \$2,000 worth of toys and 400 cans of food to the Salvation Army by hosting the annual cans food festival with the Hornbeck Theatre on December 1.

In December, CPN employees had yet another opportunity to give back to children in the surrounding communities. The annual angel tree was set up with 31 children from the CPN Child Development Center and 22

children foster care through the CPN Indian Child Welfare Department. To relieve some of the financial burden on these parents and foster parents during this gift-giving season, CPN employees chose a tag from the tree, which represented a child in need to purchase clothes and “gifts from Santa” for from the tree.

CPN’s commitment to giving back to local communities has been recognized many times, most recently at the annual [Beacon Awards](#) hosted by the *Journal Record* newspaper, where CPN was acknowledged as one of the most charitable organizations in Oklahoma. In 2015 alone, CPN’s total contributions to the community topped \$2.8 million. The employees and leadership at CPN drive the tribe to be seen as a community leader in philanthropy, beyond the holiday season.

CPN Health Service’s Torie Fuller receives National Indian Health Board Local Impact Award

A familiar face around the Citizen Potawatomi Nation recently received notice that she would be honored with an award from the National Indian Health Board, CPN Health Services and Healthy Heart Program Coordinator Torie Fuller MS, RD/LD was named the 2016 Local Impact Award recipient for her service in improving health outcomes in Indian Country.

“Your service to Indian Country has been noted by tribal leaders and advocates across the country and we are honored to have this opportunity to recognize your achievements and service,” wrote NIHB Chairperson Lester Secadero in a letter announcing the award.

Fuller, a registered dietitian who works with groups and departments at CPN to improve health outcomes, has been with the tribe since 2013. She graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma in 2013 with an MS in Nutrition and Food Management and wanted to work in a community setting focused on pre-

vention of chronic diseases through education.

“I fell in love with nutrition as a very important way of life to help with prevention of chronic disease and improve lifestyle changes for my patients,” explained Fuller. “Everyone has to eat to live so I can help my patients with making healthier changes to improve their health.”

Whether it’s teaching cooking classes to produce healthy meals or educating participants in the Healthy Heart Program, Fuller says her own educational background, which includes certifications in adult, adolescent and childhood weight management techniques, are there to help patients make healthier lifestyle choices.

At CPN, Fuller plays an integral role in many tribal programs, including monthly cooking demonstrations for the elder and Healthy Heart Programs and monthly health education classes for tribal youth programs. She also co-founded the CPN Community Garden. In addition to these roles,



CPN Dietitian Torie Fuller with her Local Impact Award from the NIHB.

she has also overseen grant programs focused on preventative health as the Native Telehealth Outreach and Technical Assistance Program and the Notah Begay Foundation Capac-

ity Building program. She currently serves as president of the Oklahoma Inter-Tribal Diabetes Coalition.

“We’re very proud of Torie’s work and her recognition by the NIHB, a prestigious national organization, proves how important her efforts are,” said CPN Health Services Director Chris Skillings.

The National Indian Health Board represents tribal governments that operate their own health care delivery systems through contracting and compacting and those receiving health care directly from the Indian Health Service. The NIHB presents tribal perspectives while monitoring federal legislation, and opening opportunities to network with other national health care organizations to engage their support on Indian health care issues.

Browning Neddeau Organizes California Native American Gathering

By Paul Fairchild

Citizen Potawatomi Nation member Browning Neddeau, Ph.D. of Seaside, California, organized the second annual Native American Gathering at California State University, Monterey Bay on November 5. An assistant professor of education at the university, Neddeau led the planning, fundraising and helped manage the event with the help of CSUMB’s Native American Students United, Native Advisory Council and Mark Alabanza, assistant director for academic personnel. The gathering attracted more than 1,000 attendees to view and participate in its activities.

The event offered many different activities and included the presence of a Native American food vendor and more than 20 Native American craft vendors. Attendees could also engage in seven free craft-making workshops. There were 47 dancers for the dance contests with two visiting drums and the two host drums, the All Nations, a northern drum, and Southern Express. CSUMB Native faculty also provided a lecture and film screening of “Legacy of the Grandfather Flute” and a presentation on Native identity. There was also a staged reading of “4th Grade Mission Project,” a scene from IYA The Esselen Remember, a play telling the story of the Esselen tribe, indigenous people of Monterey County.

The University Center had ample space for attendees, dancers and workshop participants to experi-



Mark Alabanza and Browning Neddeau

ence Native culture and opportunities to meet others in quiet settings, and to become acquainted with members of other tribes, their histories and present-day conditions. The center ballroom echoed the drumming, songs and bells of dancers while reflecting the colorful regalia of many varieties. Most impressive were two grand entries led by the color guard, the Tule River Native Veterans Post 1987, which is the oldest, all-Native American color guard in the United States.

Asked why he decided to host the event at CSUMB, Neddeau replied, “We have a student body in which a small percentage identify themselves

as Native American and consequently feel they are not part of the campus community. By bringing them together to experience Native culture with others, they learn about it, come to appreciate it, and gain a sense of community and self-worth otherwise lacking.”

The presence of multiple generations visible throughout the day showed how the event contributes to the commitment of Neddeau and the other organizers in respecting tribal traditions and the seven generations before and after our time.

Because there are 109 federally recognized tribes in California, the gathering’s focus was on no single tribe.

Elements of Potawatomi culture were incorporated in the preparation of the students for the event though.

“I told them about the Potawatomi traditions related to directions, the uses of sweet grass and tobacco, and the traditional aspects of Potawatomi etiquette to observe during the event,” explained Neddeau.

Ahead of the second grand entry, he pointed out features of his regalia with roots in the Potawatomi culture. Made by Potawatomi hands, it included a beaded belt symbolizing his Potawatomi name, Pnaswa. Accentuating his height, the first eagle feather given by the CPN aviary topped his headdress.

As a Potawatomi, attending the event was important for me because it provided an occasion to join with family and friends in a setting that reminded me of my tribal experiences as a child in Shawnee, Oklahoma. It also meant learning something about the California tribes. The dancing, drums, crafts, and regalia reminded us of our Potawatomi culture and its place among Native traditions.

The participation by college-age dancers and attendees throughout the day made for strong evidence that the purpose of holding the event at CSUMB was being fulfilled.

An interview with former PLP Lexi Freeman

Rhodd family member Lexi Freeman was a member of the 2012 Potawatomi Leadership Program. As an environmental science graduate student at Oklahoma State University, she is studying the American burying beetle, *Nicrophorus americanus*, the only endangered insect in Oklahoma. She is also using her degree to give back to tribal nations through implementing environmentally-friendly practices.

Freeman recalled that the PLP impacted her life in significant ways and she recently sat down with the *Hownikan* to talk about how the program has connected her culture with the career path she has chosen.

What made you want to participate in the PLP?

"I was born and raised in Shawnee, Oklahoma, so the tribe has always been a major aspect of my life. I attend Family Reunion Festival every summer, and have taken advantage of the resources CPN offered. When the opportunity presented itself, I felt the PLP would be a fantastic way to learn about the culture and enterprises of CPN."

How did the PLP make you see the tribe differently?

"I gained so much insight from a cultural prospective. I had always been aware of how successful our tribal

businesses were, but aside from attending Festival, I never explored the many facets of our culture. Being a PLP allowed me to experience tribal language, history, dancing, stickball, sweats and ceremonies. I also made valuable connections and gained knowledge about the inner workings of the tribe.

"Ultimately, the PLP helped build my tribal identity. I have always been a CPN member, but had never truly felt Native American. I had reaped the benefits, but had never gone out of my way to learn and be able to teach the next generation. I don't look Native American. I have blonde hair and blue eyes and had always felt like a self-imposed imposter.

"Being a PLP intern, I was able to meet so many incredible and driven people from all walks of life. I was able to learn the history and culture and whole-heartedly feel like I was a true member of CPN. I learned that being Native American isn't the color of your skin or how much blood is in your veins, but the drive to learn and continue practicing and teaching the traditions. I will always be grateful for that summer and the people who made it possible."

What have you been doing since the PLP?

"The following summer I was fortunate enough to acquire a position



Lexi Freeman

as an intern for the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council stationed with the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services in Madison, Wisconsin. During that summer, I spent a great amount of time working with tribal nations in establishing healthy animal populations on reservations and tribal lands, along with the implementation of environmentally friendly energy and agricultural alternatives. I assisted in studies on the occurrence of rabies on tribal lands and aided in rabies clinics on reservations. I also visited various tribes to study their aquaponics systems and agricultur-

al practices. I returned to OSU the following fall with new insight into Native American tribes in the north and their endeavors to reduce their negative affects on the environment.

"Throughout my undergraduate degree I continued to work with the USDA in Oklahoma. I graduated with my bachelor's in zoology in May 2015, and am now on my first year as a graduate student. As an environmental science graduate, my goal is to return to the Potawatomi or other sovereign nation to assist in implementation and regulation of environmentally friendly practices.

"As a Native American, I feel a close kinship to nature and respect and admire the work tribal nations do to preserve their natural surroundings and wildlife. I appreciate and believe in the Native American philosophy of seven generations. In every deliberation, we must consider the impact on the seventh generation. My hope is to become a contributing member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and, in some way, find means to better tribal communities.

"To everyone who makes the PLP possible, thank you and please continue the hard work."

To learn more about the PLP, please visit plp.potawatomi.org.

Employee loan program made reliable transportation possible for McSpadden

In a state like Oklahoma, with vast distances and an inadequate public transportation infrastructure, having a reliable car is paramount for employees of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. This issue is exacerbated outside of the state's two major metropolitan areas of Oklahoma City and Tulsa, where public transportation options almost cease to exist. In an effort to assist tribal employees in obtaining reliable transportation while avoiding high-fee, predatory car loans, the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation offers an employee automobile program.

James McSpadden was one such employee in a situation where his only option was to drive unreliable, used cars. McSpadden, who lives in Oklahoma City near the State Fairgrounds, makes a 33 mile drive – one way – to work at the Grand Casino Hotel Resort as a banquet supervisor. He had long driven second hand and used cars, but became aware of the employee loan program at the tribe's annual employee health fair.



Grand Casino employee James McSpadden with his new car acquired with a loan from the CPCDC.

"I love my job out at the Grand. The tribe has been really good to me, and I have never had a new car. With the holidays coming up, I was going to be at work a lot and I knew I needed something more reliable," he explained.

McSpadden saw an advertisement of the employee car loan program when he attended the CPN Tribal Employ-

ee Health Fair, and contacted Tina Pollard at the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation to find out more. Pollard, a consumer finance lending manager at the CPCDC, worked with McSpadden to find financing for a new car.

"Honestly, I went into it thinking it was not going to go through," he said.

McSpadden, like many customers who use the CPCDC's short-term loan programs, had a bruised credit score, making traditional financing from a bank an unrealistic proposition. Aside from offering reasonable rates for his automobile loan, McSpadden noted that the process of an automatic withdrawal from his paycheck as a tribal employee alleviates the hassle of making the payment each month.

"I don't have to worry about it," he explained. "I don't see it, and it's automatically paid, meaning I don't have to struggle or stress about making sure it gets made."

Mcspadden estimates that because he is a tribal employee in his position for the long-haul, he's projected to pay off his loan within three years.

If you would like to learn more about programs that helped McSpadden, please contact the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation at (405) 878-4697 or visit www.cpcdc.org.

Get the *Hownikan* via email!

If you would like your newspaper via email, please email your name and address to hownikan@potawatomi.org and let us know.

Start passport application process now in time for Gathering of Potawatomi Nations

The 2017 Gathering of Potawatomi Nations will take place north of the border at the Walpole Island Indian Community, which is located in Canada just across from Detroit, Michigan. One item that all CPN members from the United States must pack in preparation for this year’s visit is a valid U.S. passport, passport card or U.S. NEXUS card.

Those travelling with minors who are not their own children or those without full legal custody may be asked to present a notarized affidavit of consent from the minor’s guardians. Applying for passports for children under the age of 16 is an entirely separate process, and more can be learned at <http://cpn.news/MinorPassport>.

For tourists staying less than 180 days in Canada, there is no need for a visa

of any kind. Those with past criminal records, including misdemeanors or alcohol-related driving offenses, may need to prove their time served and rehabilitation. To know what qualifies under these statutes, visit <http://cpn.news/CAapproval>.

To speed transit through border controls and customs, the U.S. and Canada both encourage travelers to enroll in trusted travelers programs that provide expedited travel for pre-approved, low risk travelers. Learn more about enrolling in these programs, visit <http://cpn.news/trustedtraveler>.

Apply for passports sooner rather than later

For some Citizen Potawatomi, especially those from states in the conti-

nental interior and hundreds or thousands of miles from the nearest international border, a U.S. passport has never been a necessity. Yet attending Gathering in Canada this year will not happen without it, and waiting until the last minute is in all likelihood an unworkable option.

The U.S. Department of State estimates that the routine passport application processing times are between four to five weeks, or two to three weeks if expedited at a higher fee. There are three document options for international travel between the U.S. and Canada:

Passport book - \$110: Valid for all international travel.

Passport card - \$30: Valid only for return to the U.S. by land or sea from Canada, Mexico, Bermuda and the

Caribbean. This is not valid for air travel.

Passport book and card - \$140: Get both documents at the same time.

All of these fees must be paid by check – personal, certified, cashier’s or travelers – or through money orders payable to the U.S. Department of State. Cash and credit or debit cards may not be an option, so prepare and research the specific application facility beforehand.

Visit <http://cpn.news/FindAPassport> to locate a passport application center near you, but in many instances in the State of Oklahoma, the county courthouse serves this role.

POTAWATOMI GATHERING OF NATIONS BUS TRIP AUGUST 1-7, 2017

The Gathering will be hosted by Walpole Island First Nation in Wallaceburg, Ontario, Canada during August 2-5, 2017.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation will provide free bus travel to the annual Gathering of Potawatomi Nations for tribal members and their immediate families.

A chartered bus will leave the Citizen Potawatomi Nation headquarters

**AT 1601 S. GORDON COOPER DRIVE IN SHAWNEE
6 A.M. ON TUESDAY, AUG. 1st, 2017**

and the bus will return home on Sunday, Aug. 6th.
The bus will arrive back in Shawnee the afternoon of Monday, Aug. 7th

PREPARE:

A \$50/passenger refundable deposit is required. Tribal members who attend the Gathering will be responsible for their own food, lodging, and incidentals expenses.

To reserve a seat on the bus or obtain more information, please contact Cathie Hanson at 275-3121 (extension 1434) or 800-880-9880 or at chanson@potawatomi.org.



IMPORTANT:

A current passport is mandatory. You must show your passport or passport card to board the bus at your departure point.

In Oklahoma, county clerk offices will accept applications. In Pottawatomie County, passport applications are Monday - Friday from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

In addition to the \$110 fee for a passport paid by money order or cash, the Pottawatomie County Clerk’s office charges an additional \$25 cash fee. You will need to bring an original birth certificate, driver’s license or state issued ID and are encouraged to call ahead to ensure you bring all the required documents and payment forms.

Limited seating available.
The deadline for reservations is 5 p.m. Friday, June 9th, 2017

MORE INFO: Walpole Island First Nation of Wallaceburg, Ontario will be hosting the Gathering this year.
facebook.com/PotawatomiGathering17

Hownikan

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma

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The *Hownikan* is published by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and is mailed free to enrolled tribal members. Subscriptions for non-members are available for \$10/yr. in the United States and \$12 for foreign countries. The *Hownikan* is a member of the Native American Journalists Association. Reprint permission is granted with publication credit to the *Hownikan*. Editorials/letters are subject to editing and must contain traceable address.

All correspondence should be directed to *Hownikan*,
1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801
Questions: hownikan@potawatomi.org or 800-880-9880

Address changes should be sent to Citizen Potawatomi Tribal Rolls,
1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801

Construction projects move forward

FireLake Golf Course

FireLake Golf Course is nearing the final stages of its complete upgrade. Trees and cumbersome underbrush have been removed from the back nine holes, new bridges have been put in and many holes elevated and redesigned. The greens are currently at an 80 percent grow rate, though the growing season is on hold until the weather warms up again. The bridge that linked holes 11 and 12 was demolished and a new, wider one was put in to replace it. The second floor interior of the new club house is still under construction but is also nearing completion. The first floor of the club house boasts a bar and separate banquet room which are currently open for events. The revitalized pro shop is currently open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The golf course is expected to be playable by late summer 2017.



Iron Horse Industrial Park

A few miles away, approximately 7,000 feet of rail is being laid at Iron Horse Industrial Park. Two new rail lines will serve the facilities inside the industrial park. Park planners are also developing a trans load facility that will transfer cargo shipments from train to truck shipments. Iron Horse is currently searching for potential tenants for the industrial park, visit www.ironhorsecpn.com for more information.



Transportation and Employment & Training Offices

Northeast of the CPN Administration building, the transportation department's new facility is nearly finished. At the time of print, the building's tentative completion date is in late-January 2017. The department's previous location did not have room for their fleet of vehicles. The new facility is a two-story 9,375 square-foot building with a garage, where their fleet of vehicles can be washed and stored inside.

Next door, the CPN Workforce Development building is in its final stages of construction. Once finished, it will replace the employment and training department's current building in Tecumseh. The expected date for the opening of the workforce development building is spring 2017.



Stay up to date with these projects and more by visiting potawatomi.org.

Milkweed is delicacy for monarchs, tribal members alike

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation, along with the [monarch habitat rebuilding initiatives](#), is working with six other Oklahoma-based Native American tribes, the Euchee Butterfly Farm and the University of Kansas' Monarch Watch to help restore the monarch population. CPN members and employees have learned that milkweed is a very important plant to monarch butterflies. The plant, native to many areas in the tribe's jurisdiction in Pottawatomie County, it is the only plant that monarch caterpillars can eat, so it is typically where they lay eggs.

Milkweed is abundant in the mid-western and northern states and was traditionally a special spring treat for Potawatomi people. During certain times of year, there are specific ways milkweed can be pruned to promote growth, such as cutting the tops off the plant. By doing this, the Potawatomi people have been assisting monarchs and milkweed growth for many years.

"I know almost every Potawatomi and Kickapoo in Kansas eats them. I'm pretty sure up into Wisconsin they do too," Eenedina Banks, CPN

Language Department employee and a Prairie Band Potawatomi member, said of the milkweed plant. "They are a delicacy of sorts as they are picked at certain times of the year. In Kansas, where the Prairie Band Potawatomi live, *nenwejek*, or milkweed, is plentiful. Actually, as soon as you drive into Kansas from Oklahoma on the highway you see them everywhere; it's pretty cool."

Banks shared her family's recipe for cooking *nenwejek*, which can be identified by velvet fuzz covering the entire plant and large leaves.

First, identify the milkweed by breaking a leaf or stalk and seeing if it exudes a large amount of white, milky fluid. You can also taste the plant to see if it is slightly sweet. If it is bitter, do not eat it.

Next, cut only the top four inches off of the plant prior to them blooming. There is about a two week window in early spring when these plants are ready for harvest.

Parboil the milkweed for one minute, discard the water and heat them in fresh water with pieces of bacon and dumplings on low until they are ten-



*Monarch Butterfly feeding on Swamp Milkweed flowers taken in Naperville IL.
Photo by provided by Teune.*

der. To make the dumplings, put flour in a bowl with enough water to make little chunky dumplings and the extra flour will make the soup creamy.

Potawatomi people have always cared for the environment, so plant-

ing and eating the milkweed plant assists in the rebuilding of the monarch population and can connect tribal members to their Potawatomi culture.

Wadase update: January 2017

By Bree Dunham, CPN Eagle Aviary Assistant Director

The holiday season always seems to be hectic, and this season the aviary was no exception. November is National American Indian Heritage Month and with so many relatives coming in to visit their families over the holidays, we had a surge in calls for appointments to visit the aviary and our calendars filled up quickly. With all the extra hustle and bustle, we completely missed the deadline for December’s paper. But there has been much to share when it comes to Wadasé Zhabwé.

Our last article ended as Wadasé left September 20 after being here for eight days. Until that visit she had only been at the aviary seven days since the beginning of 2016. We were thrilled to see her but when she left we couldn’t help but wonder if there would be eight months before her next visit. However, we weren’t left wondering that for too long. Less than three weeks later, on October 9 Wadasé showed up at sunrise. Every eagle loudly announced her arrival as she made several passes around the aviary pasture before coming to land on the top of the half round enclosure. She stayed for five days before heading out again and with this visit, we wondered if this pattern might become more of her routine for the winter. Consequently we watched the calendar and waited in hopes of another visit. On the 18th day, October 31, she was back again. This time she stayed for a full week. During these visits we would normally see her every morning at sunrise. She would spend most of the morning hanging out on the enclosure

with the eagles.
Occasionally she

would find the highest perch that would support her in the very top of her pecan tree out front so she could keep an eye on the entire property. During the middle of the day we often didn’t see her. Telemetry shows her spending time in the nearby pastures and along the river until late afternoon when she would return to roost out front on her favorite crook in her pecan tree until dusk before heading towards the east pasture for the night.

After her last departure on November 6, we were optimistic she would be back in a few weeks. Once again, we counted down the days as we waited for her next visit, but 18 days came and went. Along with 20, 25 and 30 days came and went with no sign of Wadasé. In fact, studying her telemetry, we noted that she had been less than 10 miles from the aviary on November 24.

That date, 18 days since her previous visit, was right on schedule according to the time between the last three visits, but she hadn’t come to the aviary. We assumed this might possibly count towards her being in the area to visit and we started the countdown again.

With an article due for the January edition of the paper we sat down to compile the all the specific data needed and finish our article after lunch. Just as we were finishing up we heard the eagles begin to vocalize in a familiar tone. There she was, perched out front. Wadasé was home again!

She is notorious for coming home at the last minute and causing several edits or entirely new articles and, in all probability, causing a few grey hairs for our public information department, who always seem to be waiting on Wadasé articles from the aviary. Wadasé arrived just ahead of the papers deadline and a substantial cold front that may bring our first snow of the season. Her timing is impeccable. But whether it is 18 days or 30 days between visits, there seems to be a fairly consistent pattern emerging in her returns to this area and we hope that it will continue throughout the season. In all of 2015, we saw her just 28 days out of the year and she has been here 21 days in the last three months. Hopefully, spending more time here is an indicator that she may be thinking more about nesting nearby and bring a male back with her. We will certainly keep an



Landing gear down as she returns from a quick circle of the aviary pasture.



High in her pecan tree in front of the aviary.

eye out for her “plus one” but today simply is a blessing to see Wadasé perched out front on her crook soaking up the last light as the sun sets.

For us, there are no words to fully express what seeing her here again really means. There has never been another tribe that has had such a relationship with an eagle that we know of in modern history, possibly ever. Wadasé Zhabwé is truly a unique and rare gift. We are just humbled to continue to share her story.

As always we encourage you to keep your eyes out for Wadasé if you are near the areas she frequents.

For more information about the CPN Eagle Aviary or to read previous Wadasé updates visit www.potawatomiheritage.org. Send your encounters with Wadasé or any other eagles in Oklahoma or wherever you may be to us at aviary@potawatomi.org.



Tribal Housing Department programs available to homeowners

By Sherry Byers, CPN Housing Department Home Ownership Manager

As the tribal membership increases, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Housing Department wants to ensure the housing program's information is available to all. Many of these programs have existed for a very long time. This article lists general information about our current home ownership programs. For more details and one-on-one conversations, please feel free to contact our office at 405-273-2833 about the programs listed below.

A down payment and closing cost assistance grant is a *one-time-only* grant with priority given to CPN tribal members. All CPN tribal members residing in the United States may apply. Other Native American applicants must live within the tribal jurisdiction, must be 60 or older, and within the 80 percent of the national median income limit. We highly encourage the use of the tribally owned bank, First National Bank & Trust Co. in Shawnee for your financing, if applicable. The maximum grant is \$2,125. Mobile homes are *not* eligible for this grant nor can applicant or any household member be a convicted felon. Applications must be submitted at least three weeks prior to closing or no later than 30 days



CPN tribal housing under renovation in Mcloud, Oklahoma.

after the closing date. Applications received after the 30-day limit will not be considered.

Our new home construction program enables CPN tribal members to construct a new home in certain areas located within the CPN tribal jurisdiction with a \$20,000 buy-down grant to be applied to the construction cost of the home. Each applicant must meet the 80 percent of the national median income limit guidelines, and are required to mortgage through FNB. The land must meet HUD environmental requirements,

land must be owned free and clear, and an Indian preference contractor must build the home. Neither applicants nor any household member can be a convicted felon.

The acquisition program enables CPN tribal members to choose and purchase existing homes from the CPNHA inventory. Each applicant must meet the 80 percent national median income limit guidelines, and are required to mortgage through FNB. Applicant or any household member cannot be a convicted felon. Each approved borrower is eligible

for up to a \$20,000 buy-down grant to be applied to the purchase price of the home.

An emergency home repair loan is available to all low-income Native Americans, with priority given to CPN tribal members within the CPN jurisdiction. Other Native American applicants are restricted to living within the tribal jurisdiction and must be age 60 or older. All applicants must meet the 80 percent of the national median income limit guidelines. This loan program provides emergency repair funds of a minimum of \$1,000 and no greater than \$5,000. The home must meet all HUD environmental criteria and *must be built after 1978* to qualify. Mobile homes are not eligible for this loan program. Applicants are required to submit a deed to the property, as a mortgage agreement for the amount of the loan will be recorded, which will be released at the time of loan payoff. Current homeowner's insurance is required. Neither applicant nor any household member can be a convicted felon.

For more information, contact the CPN Housing Department from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at 405-273-2833 or email me at sbyers@potawatomi.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

FireLodge Tribal Youth update: January 2017

By Darin Greene, FireLodge Tribal Youth Coordinator

January 2017 is a welcome arrival to the PLACE With a New Year comes new goal setting!

One of the main goals for the tribal youth is to learn how harmful alcohol can be to young people. The PLACE staff will lead a program called "Be smart, don't start!" that will provide resources to the youth about the harms of alcohol to people their age.

The tribal youth will learn that they don't need alcohol to deal with stress or have fun. They'll also see real life scenarios to encourage them to avoid alcohol use, including learning the consequences of underage drinking.

Another facet of the "Be smart, don't start!" program will be a methamphetamine prevention aspect, which will have guest speakers from the CPN Tribal Police Department and other departments

talking with our participants about preventions and risk factors.

The GET Native Program will continue with its Native wellness program by preparing our next generation for the challenges they'll face as they grow older. The youth will learn about what healthy relationships look like, see traditional leadership practices and improve decision making by teaching them that they are the creator of their own story.

The Get Fit Program will be especially important after the holidays that were filled with food and fun. Now comes the time to work it off. Prevention Specialist Wilson Littlehead will start the 12 days of fitness program to help prevent our youth from developing practices, both eating and by not exercising, that might cause diabetes. Youth are also gearing up for a volleyball tournament, Indian Football and a disc golf tournament.

Keeping their spirits and bodies healthy is important, but our Get



Tribal youth Harley Scott and Britney Mee assemble Christmas decorations for the PLACE's annual Christmas party.

Smart Program continues into the second semester by providing a college readiness class. This instruction will teach the students about different college choices and the financial aid process.

The tribal youth will also celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday and

National Blood Donors month this January, so we'll have a full plate of activities.

If you'd like to learn more about our programs, please reach out to me at dgreene@potawatomi.org or call us at 405-214-5110.

SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER!



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

THE SPRING SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 15

Roads department wins tribal infrastructure project of the year award

With overlapping county, federal and municipal road projects, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Roads Department plays an important role in supplementing travel infrastructure in large parts of Pottawatomie County. One of the department’s recently completed projects, a long-sought sidewalk from the North Canadian River running south along Gordon Cooper Drive into the heart of the tribe’s FireLake complex was recently named the Tribal Infrastructure Project of the Year.

“Anyone who has driven that stretch of road knows how busy it is both in terms of foot and automobile traffic. There has even been a pedestrian fatality in that area,” explained Arthur Muller, director of the tribal roads department. “We were able to use safety funds to build a sidewalk that runs from the James A. Allen Bridge to Hardesty Road.”

Tribal road and travel infrastructure programs play a vital role in rural Oklahoma where state and local funds fall short of those collected in more populous metropolitan areas of the state. Federal funds specifically designated for tribes to be used in their jurisdictions fill an important gap in funding in this regard. The sidewalk project along Gordon Cooper Drive totaled \$263,045.

In 2015 alone, CPN brought more than \$3 million into the community for road and transportation infrastructure.



CPN Roads Director Arthur Muller accepts the award from BIA Indian Highway Safety Program Director Lawrence Robertson.

“This is a road that many of our tribal employees and members travel, but it’s also a vital travel corridor to all of our neighbors travelling between the two biggest cities in the county,” said CPN Vice-Chairman Linda Capps. “For years we’ve seen people walk through mud or on the shoulder of the street, so we’re glad CPN can provide a safe, dry area for them to get where they need to go. Our roads department does fantastic work on many transportation projects in the county, and this award is proof of that.”

Capps continued, “We are fortunate to have Art and his Assistant Director Shawn Howard at the helm of

our roads and environmental departments. These two departments work together to compliment the outcome on projects like the new sidewalk”.

The award was part of the Annual Tribal Safety Champions Workshop co-hosted by the Southern Plains Tribal Technical Assistance Program at Oklahoma State University and the Southern Plains Transportation Center at the University of Oklahoma.

“The committee chose the Citizen Potawatomi Nation for the Infrastructure Project of the Year because of their proactive approach toward pedestrian safety and their concern for the community members who

walk on this busy exchange. As CPN continues to expand their facilities, safe passage for tribal members has become a priority for the tribe. Walkable pathways not only promote safety, but encourage healthy, vibrant communities,” noted Karla Sisco, program manager, Southern Plains TTAP Center.

Among the winners of the SPTTAP Safety Champion Awards were the Choctaw Nation for its tribal transit program and its injury prevention program. Several safety awards were also presented to individuals for their efforts in reducing transportation related injuries and fatalities, including Bonita Paddyaker of the Comanche Nation, Sarah Hayes of the Chickasaw Nation, Patrick Keahbone of the Anadarko Agency and Trooper Joe Williams of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol.

Of the 85 attendees this year, 11 different tribes were represented among the 45 tribal employees registered. Other participants included two tribal law enforcement Officers, two BIA law enforcement officers, two members of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, six university students, two university professors, three FHWA employees, five consultants, one LTAP employee, four Oklahoma DOT employees, three BIA employees, seven employees from state agencies, one National Highway Traffic Safety Administration employee, and two from a university transportation center.

CPN Veterans report: January 2017



By Daryl Talbot, Commander Bozho,

With the beginning of a New Year and new future, the CPN Veterans Organization will be having elections for officers and planning for upcoming activities for the CPN Color Guard. After several years of hard work and building the guard, Herb Holton is retiring. He will be greatly missed. We were extremely active in 2016 and with a new guard leader for 2017, we hope to continue with this success.

Looking to the future I would like to share a story that has helped me facing life challenges. An old Cherokee was teaching his grandson about life.

“A fight is going on inside me,” he said to the boy. “It is a terrible fight

and it is between two wolves. One is evil. He is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.”

He continued, “The other is good. He is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. The same fight is going on inside you and every other person, too.”

The grandson thought about it for a minute and asked his grandfather, “Which wolf will win?”

The old Cherokee simply replied, “The one you feed.”

I wish everyone a prosperous and happy 2017.

Remember the CPN Veterans Organization meets every month on the fourth Tuesday at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) in the North Reunion Hall on the Potawatomi Powwow Grounds. All CPN veterans and their families are welcome. A meal is provided.

WINTER IS HERE

so we have you covered

A collection of winter clothing items including a grey hoodie with a bison graphic, a pair of brown moccasins, a pair of brown boots, and a colorful patterned sweater.

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PBA-FireLake Tournament of Champions gets rolling for finale on ESPN February 17

While the temperatures outside may be cool, the action on the lanes inside FireLake Arena will be hot as Sweden's Jesper Svensson looks to retain his title from the 2016 Tournament of Champions. The event, co-sponsored by the FireLake Bowling Center and FireLake Arena will bring some of the biggest names in bowling for a week of competition to culminate on February 19.

"The FireLake PBA Tournament of Champions is our signature event," said PBA CEO and Commissioner Tom Clark. "Some of the greatest accomplishments in the history of the sport have happened in this tournament, by the best players to have ever played the game. We know history will be made once again at FireLake Arena, which provides a dynamic platform for the tournament's climactic moments."

Citizen Potawatomi Nation enterprises have become premier destinations for professional bowling in Oklahoma in recent years, hosting PBA and PBA Southwest Region competitions.

"This is a massive event, not just in terms of attendance, but also televi-



Jesper Svensson will look to defend his title at this year's event.

sion ratings," said FireLake Bowling Center Director Chris Skillings. "Citizen Potawatomi Nation enterprises like FireLake Arena and FireLake Bowling Center are going to be featured in a nationwide ESPN broadcast. Being able to host something this important shows that CPN enterprises are top notch."

Tribal enterprises are also set to host a second to-be announced summer

event for 2017 following the completion of the PBA-FireLake Tournament of Champions.

The premier event for PBA champions will conclude on Sunday, February 17, with live ESPN coverage of the five-player stepladder finals held inside the 5,000 square foot FireLake Arena outside Shawnee, Oklahoma.

A week of preliminary rounds will be conducted right next door at the 24-lane FireLake Bowling Center.

Last year's pre-Super Bowl timeslot for the FireLake-PBA Tournament of Champions drew nearly one million viewers to the ESPN live broadcast. At that time, the tournament finale was the highest rated PBA telecast of the broadcaster's 2015-16 season, and was a 17 percent viewer increase over the previous year's tournament.

Tickets for the final can be purchased online at www.firelakearena.com or by calling the box office at 405-273-1637 or visiting in person at 18145 Old Range Line Road, Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entrance for the preliminary rounds held the week of February 11-February 17, 2017 can be purchased at the door inside FireLake Bowling Center located at 4095 Hardesty Road, Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801. Follow all the news about the tournament and participants at www.PBA.com.

Iron Horse Industrial Park is on the rails

Long laid plans for Iron Horse Industrial Park are finally coming to fruition for the CPN Planning and Economic Development Department. Under the direction of Director James C. Collard Ph.D., crews began laying the first of 5,700 feet of rail lines inside the industrial park in November and December. Completion is expected in January, weather permitting.

"This is a very important time for the Nation and for Iron Horse," stated Collard. "It's really impressive seeing something we'd had drawn up in blue prints and maps be built from the ground up. With the rail lines, we are actively seeking tenants for the industrial park."

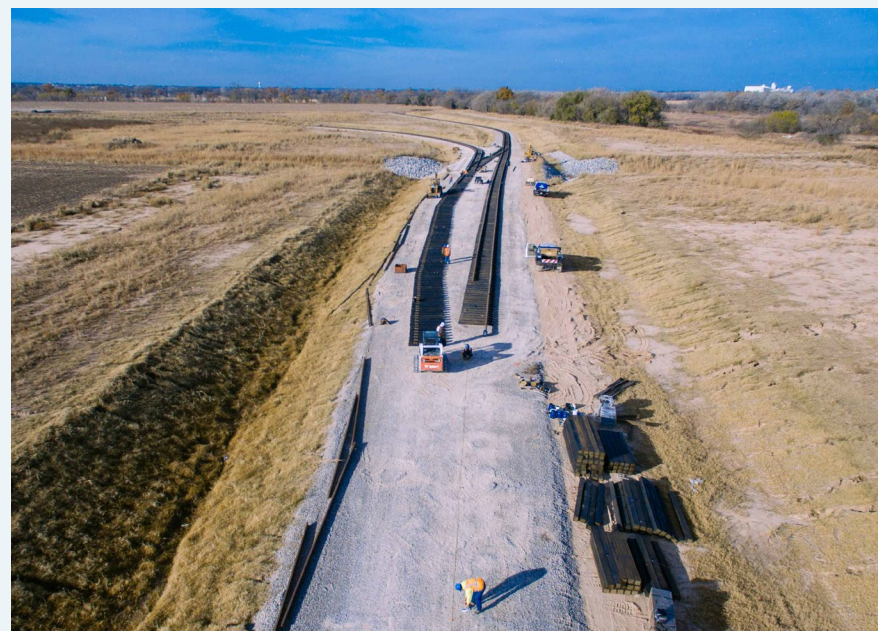
Along with the internal rail lines, work crews are in the initial stages of constructing a transload facility, which will allow for the quick and simple transfer of products from truck to rail, and vice versa, for shipping out of the park.

"This will be the first business at Iron Horse," Collard explained. "It will serve in an important location in east central Oklahoma. It will additionally serve as a profit center for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation."

Iron Horse is a general-use industrial park located on the national rail network of the United States. Its central location on 400 acres of Native American trust land just 35 minutes southeast of Oklahoma City and direct connections to the Union Pacific Rail Road provides great potential for importers and exporters alike. The agreement to put track throughout the park was signed off at the end of 2015. Through the use of the federal HEARTH Act and the park's designation as a foreign-trade zone satellite site, Iron Horse has the potential to become one of the drivers of economic development and jobs in Pottawatomie County in the coming years.

The park will stand out compared to many other industrial parks in the region due to its rail connections. In the ten county area surrounding Citizen Potawatomi Nation, there are few industrial parks that have rail hook ups with available sites.

"The two most important and unique benefits of locating within Iron Horse are the foreign trade-zone and the rail service," Collard said. "Rail is significantly less expensive for transporting heavy materials long



Internal rail lines will serve the transload facility inside the park.

distances. Rail service therefore adds significantly to the attractiveness of the park and is a major part of our marketing because, among other reasons, rail provides a direct connection to the ocean ports on the gulf, east and west coasts."

Utilities at the park for potential clients will be developed on a case-by-case basis while building and infrastructure construction will be to international standards.

"We will be able to provide any amount of electricity needs to the businesses here at Iron Horse. Water and wastewater treatment will be handled on a case-by-case basis," he said.

To learn more about Iron Horse Industrial Park, please visit www.IronHorseCPN.com or call James C. Collard at 405-275-3121.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation
HEALTH CLINICS

Appointment Desk (405) 878-4693

East Clinic

2307 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.
Phone: (405) 273-5236

West Clinic

781 Grand Casino Blvd.
Phone: (405) 964-5770



Bozho Nikanek,
(Hello my friends)

With a New Year beginning, I want to wish all of you the happiest of years in 2017. Many of you have contacted me concerning your fears about the new administration taking office in the White House. Please do not let that fear overwhelm you. There is still a balance of powers in the government and the

Tribal Chairman - John “Rocky” Barrett

Congress and the courts will remain as mitigating forces in the new government. In the past few weeks we have all seen some moderation of the rhetoric from the president-elect. Many of his appointments to key posts in the executive branch have been of people who have expressed the purest of animosity towards the departments they now head. It is highly likely, however, that the replacement of people in these departments will take place at a pace that the work load allows and new replacements are available.

The new director of the U.S Environmental Protection Agency is the former Attorney General of Oklahoma. In his tenure as attorney general, he sued the EPA many

times to prevent enforcement of federal law. It is likely that there will be a long period of inactivity or non-enforcement as the agency learns its new boundaries under this leadership. Oil exploration in the Arctic will be authorized quickly and drilling will begin as soon as contractors can relocate equipment to the area, but not as much as many fear. The price of oil is still very low because of the surplus of fracked shale oil in North and South Dakota and the new finds in south Texas. The cost of drilling in the Arctic and the price per barrel of oil will prevent many companies from starting to drill in the most remote areas.

The traditional “honeymoon” between the new president

and Congress will be short unless a more diplomatic tone is heard from the White House. The president-elect would do well to deactivate his Twitter account for a few months. If we can prevent an escalation of ill-will with our neighbors with the new secretary of state, we will find a balance. When I think about it, the United States has been at war for 75 percent of my lifetime. God willing, we will make it for another 55 to 60 years. Everything repeats itself. Peace will come again.

As many of you know, I was in office before the passage of the Indian Self Determination Act, as well as the Tribal Self Governance Act. Many of us older tribal leaders have seen things in the past that were about as bad

as they can be under any new administration. We will make it. We will adapt and figure out a way to survive or even thrive under this new government. We will press on.

We ask for your prayers and your participation. Our entire 34,000 people are blood relatives. The most valuable thing we have is that – we are family. Remember that one word prayer we always use: “Jagenagenon – “For all my relations.” It is an honor to serve as your tribal chairman.

Migwetch,
John “Rocky” Barrett
Keweoge
“He leads them home.”
Tribal Chairman



Vice-Chairman - Linda Capps

There is; however, another twist to water that involves the CPN Emergency Management department. Many people do not know how active our tribe is in helping with water problems outside of the Rural Water District 3 operation. It is often referred to as “life sustaining” in the form of essential drinking water. Drought conditions throughout Oklahoma have continued for several years. Just within the past twelve months, CPN provided bottled drinking water to hundreds of people. Pallets of water have been distributed to events, volunteer fire departments, churches, schools and other tribal entities in cases of emergencies. A pallet of water may not sound like much, but it just happens to be eighty-four cases of water. At twenty-four bottles per case, that adds up to two-thousand and sixteen bottles per pallet, which is a significant number in my estimation.

Our emergency management team has also provided water buffalos to towns, businesses, schools, churches and other entities numerous times in the last year. Our tribe’s three water buffaloes

carry up to four-hundred gallons of water each. In an emergency, a buffalo of water can be converted to drinking water. The process is done with intense care due to the sanitation aspect of the issue. Our emergency management people would rather steer clear of the conversion process, but it can be done in a dire emergency.

I am proud to say that Tim Zientek, CPN Emergency Management Director, recently received a letter of recognition from Chairman John R. Shotton of the Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Indians. The letter states how Tim and his department answered the call sent out to the Inter-Tribal Emergency Management Coalition for assistance during a boil order from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality. Tim’s department loaned the Otoe-Missouria Tribe a water buffalo and a pallet of bottled drinking water. Kudos to Tim and his department for their dedication in time of an emergency.

I look forward to serving our people in the coming New Year. These past twenty-six years have been an enchant-



Tim Zientek and the CPN Emergency Management Department often provide water to communities in CPN's vicinity at a moment's notice.

ing venture for me...one that began in June of 1990. It has been a blessing to me to serve as your vice-chairman for this long stretch of time. I cherish the progress that has been made during my tenure with CPN. As many of you know, Chairman Barrett, the present legislators, former business committee members and thousands of competent employees throughout the years have played a tremendous role in the nation’s success. With the Chairman’s leadership CPN has been put on the map in terms of growth, program expansion, enterprise development and preservation of sovereignty. There will be

new challenges in 2017. The challenges greatly will be of a national and state political nature. Economic and tribal sovereignty challenges are a given. Other challenges, too numerous to mention, will always be looming in Indian Country. It is my desire that our tribal nation will face the challenges with faith, hope and prayer.

Migwetch,
Linda Capps
Segenakwe
Vice-Chairman
405-275-3121 office
405-650-1238 cell
lcapps@potawatomi.org

POTAWATOMI NATION

FOOTBALL

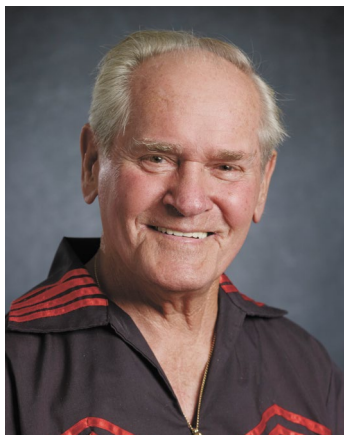
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CONTACT SARAH LAWERANCE AT 405.395.9304



District 1 - Roy Slavin

Bozho,

I was honored to represent my Nation when the Kansas City Chiefs celebrated American Indian Heritage month in November. As an ex-season ticket holder (28 years) I found it very exciting to be on the playing field at Arrow Head Stadium. Especially with 80,000 people watching.

In honor of American Indian Heritage Month the Chiefs partnered with the American Indian community for the third consecutive year to raise awareness during the November 20 home game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. There are two members of the Kansas City Chiefs that are of American Indian descent, quarterback Tyler Bray (CPN member) and long snapper James Winchester of the Choctaw Nation.

The American Indian community working group serves as advisors to the Chiefs to promote an awareness and understanding of Native American cultures and the

tribes in the region while educating the public in the process.

The Chiefs organization honored tribes during the pregame, beginning with the blessing of the four directions. The blessing was performed by Mr. Creg Hart, a member of the Kit Fox Society of Men and a Cheyenne spiritual leader and teacher from Thomas, Oklahoma. Tribal members from up to 20 tribes with a historical presence in the Chiefs kingdom participated while displaying their tribal sovereign nation flags.

The honor song was led by Mr. George Curtis Levi,

a Southern Cheyenne Kit Fox Society member and Cheyenne ceremonial leader, along with the Cheyenne-Arapaho singers. It was performed in honor of the family of Chiefs long snapper James Winchester. The color guard of the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes presented the colors for the game. The national anthem was performed by the Chickasaw Nation Youth Choir and was very well done at that. Harding George Levi, a Southern Cheyenne chief, presented the drum mallet to the Chiefs' drum honoree, hall of fame guard Ed Budde. All in all it was a great day for Native Americans and for me in particular.

I will close this article as always with a plea for your contact information. If you do not get email from me occasionally it is because I do not have your information and due to privacy issues the nation cannot provide me with that information.

Roy Slavin
Netagtege (Forever Planting)
rlavin@potawatomi.org
rjslavin@gmail.com



District 2 - Eva Marie Carney

Bozho nikanek!
 (Hello my friends)

Happy New Year: Please accept my good wishes for your and your family's health and happiness in the coming year. In December I filed my application as a candidate for the District 2 Legislative position – yes, 2017 is an election year for District 2 (as it is for districts 1, 3 and 4, and for the position of tribal chairman)!

I hope I have earned your and your family's trust and your vote in the upcoming June election. Please look for applications for your absentee ballots in the mail this spring and please cast your vote.

Happy 90th birthday to a dear Potawatomi: My dear aunt Agnes Wood Barron

turns 90 this month! If you would like to send a fellow Potawatomi birthday greetings you can mail cards or send emails to me (address in the signature block below) and I'll be sure to pass them along.

Resources: I want to remind you of some resources to jumpstart your "thinking Potawatomi" in the New Year. I maintain a website (www.evamariecarney.com) with an active, regularly updated calendar of District 2 and nationwide Potawatomi-focused events. Under the website's 'Heritage' tab, you will find information about naming ceremonies, care of eagle feathers, traditional stories and more. The 'Heritage' information is kept under a password; please email or call me for it if you don't have it. The Nation's website, www.potawatomi.org, continues to shine as a place to find critical information about tribal events, heritage opportunities, members and staff, enterprises and benefits. And the CPN Cultural Heritage Center's website, www.potawatomiheritage.org,



Snowman hitchhiking as seen on Good Morning America.

hosts a treasure trove of historical and cultural information, updates on the center's new exhibits and updates on the CPN Eagle Aviary, among other content. Then there's our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/CPNCulturalHeritage) and Twitter (@CPNHeritage) accounts. A lot of effort and creativity are being poured into these information sites

to make them relevant and timely and I urge you to take advantage of what they offer.

Event reminders and announcement: It's not too late to RSVP for the get-together in Cape Coral, Florida on Sunday, Jan. 15, 2017. Please see the invitation reprinted here. Some spots also remain for the next tour of the NMAI Archives in Suitland, Maryland. Please visit my website calendar for all the details and let me know as soon as you know if you wish to attend (priority goes to those who haven't made the trip before). New information is that the Nation to Nation exhibit that opened at the National Museum of the American Indian here in Washington D.C. will be displaying another one of our treaties in 2017 through early 2018. From August 2017–January 2018, the treaty between the Potawatomi Nations and the United States, signed in 1809, will leave its National Archives home and reside temporarily in the NMAI. I will plan and announce a time for Dis-

trict 2 to view it together, to see the rest of the exhibit – which includes a section on our Trail of Death – and to share lunch (my treat) in the acclaimed Mitsitam Café. For those not able to travel to the exhibit (which will run through fall 2018), the Smithsonian website offers a significant amount of content – please visit <http://cpn.news/D2NMAI> for some beautiful photographs, treaty texts and other materials. I can't send you a planked cut of salmon from the café, but here's an interesting article about Mitsitam Café, which includes a few recipes from the cookbook: <http://cpn.news/NMAICAFE>.

Reach out to me, please:

While I have been the District 2 representative since the legislature began its work in 2008, I still don't know about many of you out in District 2. The Nation does not share your contact details with the legislators – we rely on you to share them with us! Please write to me so I know you are. I traditionally send a New Year's greeting and would love to get one to you. Send an email, leave me a phone message, write an old-fashioned letter, (I love getting those), and include your mailing address so I can write to you. (I'll plan to send greeting only to those for whom I have a recently-confirmed address.) Our community will benefit if you add your voice.

Migwetch/Thank you for the honor of representing you.

Eva Marie Carney
Ojindiskwe
 CPN Legislator, District 2
 2200 North George Mason Drive #7307
 Arlington, VA 22207
ecarney@potawatomi.org
 Toll Free: 866-961-6988
[evamariecarney.com](http://www.evamariecarney.com)

**JOIN US FOR A
DISTRICT 2 MEETING**

*to learn CPN information, visit with fellow Potawatomi,
and enjoy coffee, desserts, and all day breakfast*

**On arrival, please ask for the private meeting space
reserved by CPN Rep. Eva Marie Carney**

**JAN. 15TH, 2017
2 TO 4 PM**

*Perkins Bakery & Restaurant
1502 Cape Coral Parkway,
Cape Coral, FL 33904*

**Please RSVP with the names of attendees
and their ages (if under 14) to ecarney@potawatomi.org
or toll free at 866-961-6988.**

Can't wait to see old friends and meet new ones!



Bozho nikanek,
(Hello friends)

For the last three months, we have seen the Sioux Nation at Standing Rock, North Dakota in the news regarding their resistance to the proposed \$3.7 billion oil pipeline. Our Nation supported them with a memo to the federal government asking that the Sioux be heard by the government and take action that would recognize their sovereignty. The Sioux nation has a long history of going head-to-head with the United States Government in similar fashion to our Nation. CPN has over 30 treaties all of which have been broken.

The federal government has been taking land from the Dakota Sioux for the last 150 years. One of the first was the seizure of the Black

District 3 - Bob Whistler

Hills when gold was found in the 1850s. In 1980, the U.S. Supreme Court awarded the Sioux \$106 million for that land which they rejected, saying they want their sacred land not the money. If you ever visit Mount Rushmore, the park rangers admit this. Those funds awarded by the court continue to be held in trust. One of the big issues Nations normally face when the federal government has made an award, is the nation receiving it many times is never allowed to use the full amount of the funds, but only the interest it can generate. This kind of an award is really tokenism rather than an actual payment for the land or property taken. While we have had our own issues and were forcibly moved to Kansas in the 1830s, the Sioux have had some of their sacred land as well as village lands in the past become unusable because dams were built and their land was flooded.

One of the primary reasons the Sioux and CPN find little legal recourse goes back to the late 1400s. On May 4, 1493 Pope Alexander VI issued the papal bull “Inter Caetera” which is the basis

for the Doctrine of Discovery. This means that the explorers to the New World, namely the Americas, were justified in taking the land of the indigenous people, thus depriving them of their ownership. The rationale used was that these inhabitants were merely safe keepers, not owners of the property. Our own federal courts have repeatedly used this papal bull as the underlying law used in decisions involving property where the decision was against one of the 567 recognized sovereign nations in the U.S.

On July 16, 2007, the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations acknowledged that the papal bulls in years of exploring in the 1400s and 1500s had long been overturned within the Church. The United Nations at that time recognized this stance and recommended to the U.S. that they to discontinue use of the papal bull as the foundation for land and property decisions. Incidentally, some countries in Latin America have begun to follow the UN recommendation. On September 13, 2007 in support

of the July 16 information, the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Of the votes cast, 143 countries were in favor, 4 against, and 11 abstained.

Australia was one that voted against, and has since changed its stance. They are now in favor of the declaration. This subject is much too long to bring to you in a single column. Much of what I have listed above has come from newspaper articles, television reports, and readings from the books, “1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus” by Charles C. Mann, and “Notes From The Center of Turtle Island” by Duane Champagne. I urge especially our youth to take the time to read these two books to become knowledgeable on how and why the U.S. government has treated the various tribes and denied all of us of what rightfully should have been ours from the days the lands of North and South America were discovered by the Europeans. It is ironic that when it comes to the area of sovereignty, the federal government bends over

backwards to all of the other countries on this planet, yet does not exercise the same courtesies to the 567 sovereign nations in the U.S.

In closing, I am honored to be your district representative and have submitted my application as a candidate for the June 24, 2017 election to hopefully serve another four year term. I will be holding several area meetings in the spring and look forward to seeing those that will be able to attend.

In the meantime, I’m here to serve you and my contacts are below. Please call my cell phone first when trying to reach me. I hope each of you had a great holiday season and wish you a wonderful 2017.

Bama mine (later),

Bob Whistler
Bmashi (He soars)
Citizen Potawatomi Nation
District 3 Representative
112 Bedford Rd., Ste 116
Bedford, TX 76022
817-229-6271 Cell
817-545-1597 Home
rwhistler@potawatomi.org
cpn3legislator@yahoo.com



Peggy and I hope each of you had a joyful and safe Holiday Season.

Objectives For 2017: In addition to serving the CPN members in Kansas, my primary objective, which continues to be unfulfilled, is the return of the 1862 Potawatomi Census Book to the Nation. It remains in the possession of the St Mary’s Historical Society Museum. I have recently heard that the position of the historical so-

District 4 - Jon Boursaw

ciety has not changed. I will continue to pursue this objective as the rightful place for this treasured piece of our history is the CPN Cultural Heritage Center.

2016 was a busy year: I took a quick glance at my 2016 calendar and was surprised at all of the activities and events I was involved in as your legislative representative. I had eight invitations to give the CPN History presentation, held several naming ceremonies in which over two dozen tribal members received their names, was involved in two issues involving suspected ancient Indian burial sites, represented the Nation at meetings with the National Park Service which is developing plans for the Pappan Landing Park in Topeka and participated with

fellow CPN veterans in numerous color guard events.

In addition, I have been enjoying the opportunity to represent the Nation as a member of the Shawnee County Historical Society Board of Trustees. Last month I was selected to serve on the Kansas State Historical Foundation Board of Trustees, where I will also represent the Nation. This does not include the numerous meetings and appointments I have had with tribal members on a wide variety of topics, several meetings with the Prairie Band Potawatomi on issues of common interest and attending the monthly potluck luncheons in Rossville. Probably the most enjoyable was the opportunity to meet so many CPN members for the first time. Many of these

were at the four district meetings held in 2016, as well as at the Festival and Gathering held in Shawnee this past summer. I have also been encouraged with the increase in the number of young tribal members being interested and involved in tribal programs and activities.

Honored to serve you: It is an honor to serve you as your district representative. Thank you to those members who have shared their thoughts and opinions on the issues of the Nation. I appreciate hearing from CPN members in Kansas, whether in the form of a letter, email or a phone call. Please let me know how I can be of assistance to you. If you are not receiving emails from me it is because I do not have your current email address or

what I have is incorrect. All you have to do is send me your email address and I will enter you into my District 4 information file. Send it to jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org. You can contact me by email, mail, phone or stop by the office. My contact information is listed below

Migwetch,

Jon Boursaw, Wetase Mkoh
CPN District 4 Rep.
(O) 785-861-7272
(C) 785-608-1982
2007 SW Gage Blvd
Topeka, KS 66604
jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org
Office Hours:
Tuesday 9-11 a.m.
Thursday 3-5 p.m.
Other times - Please call

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION WITH TRIBAL ROLLS



Is your address information updated with CPN Tribal Rolls? In the next year, the tribal government will examine population numbers across the U.S. for legislative redistricting. It is vital that we have your most up-to-date address information.

Please contact tribal rolls today and update your address information by calling (800) 880-9880.



District 5 - Gene Lambert

Let's start our New Year 2017 off with gratitude for a wonderful 2016. Everyone had something to be thankful for.

Today I would like to say thank you to everyone who works with or contributes to the success of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

We would not be where we are today if it were not for you, the directors of each de-

partment, and your employees.

As legislators we can create policy, design processes, pass legislation and make appointments, but you are the ones who ensure it happens every day.

I am always so proud to say I am a small part of this magnificent effort.

There are so many of you I cannot name all or it would take up the entire paper.

We know we have good people in place. You really don't realize how good until you see them in action or have the opportunity to work with them on a project outside our jurisdiction.

I had the opportunity to see

a very impressive, dynamite presentation from Margaret Zientek from our employment and training department while attending the National Congress for American Indians in Arizona last November.

I was so proud to be sitting in the audience as she gave her presentation. I wasn't the only in attendance that day that was proud, may I say. She knows how to hold an audience.

John VanPool puts up with all of legislators month-to-month with the articles for the *Hownikan*. Very efficient!

He really has to do some rounding up from time-to-time, but always with patience and grace. He seems



Margaret Zientek

to be aware of the need to send those little reminders that are truly necessary for some of us.

Specifically, me.

If there is a ceremony or question regarding language or tradition you can count on

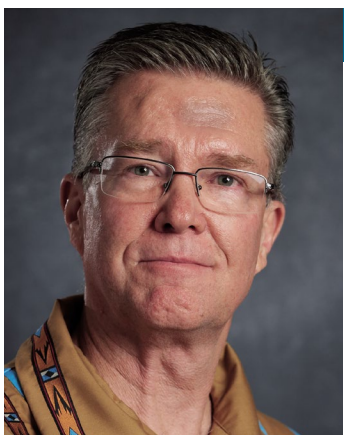
Justin Neely and his staff at the language department to safeguard the process.

As I look back over the last 20 years I am impressed with the progress we have made as a native Nation and you are the people who keep us there.

Again, I cannot name all of you but I know you are there and I appreciate the work you do!

So, happy New Year and thank you again. May 2017 bring you all you wish for.

Eunice Imogene Lambert
Gene Lambert
Legislator District 05
480-228-6569
P.O. Box 5905
Mesa, Arizona 85211
euniceilambert@gmail.com



District 6 - Rande K. Payne

Bozho nikanek,
(Hello my friends)

So we've made it through the election cycle that was Election 2016. From my observation one of the craziest, most ruthless, hard fought, unpredictable, upsetting, corrupt and divisive elections I've seen in my lifetime. Unbelievable! One of the things I was thankful for at our Thanksgiving table was the fact that it was over and that hopefully the country can start to move toward prosperity and unity across our great nation. A difficult but not impossible task if you still believe in the American dream.

No sooner were the elections over than the holidays were upon us. The holiday season can be a joyous time of year for many but they can also be a painful time of sadness and loneliness for others. Whatever your individual circumstances, I do hope you had the best holiday season you could possibly have.

Going back to the heritage festival held November 5-6; I am left with fullness of heart and many fond memories of such a great time with other Potawatomi and their families from all over California and Nevada. Based on the response from many who attended I would say it went pretty well overall. Mother Earth blessed us with picture perfect weather and I don't want to take that for granted as weather is such a huge factor for an outdoor event. The best made plans can all be foiled and expectations drenched if the weather isn't cooperative; so *igwien* (heartfelt thank you) Mother Earth.

It was an absolute honor to have Chairman Rocky Barrett and Vice-Chairman Linda Capps not only attend the event but be such active participants. Rocky volunteered to teach the men's bandolier craft which I thought was very generous of his time. But if I'm being honest, my heart dropped when I realized that the bandoliers were not in kit form and that Rocky was going to do it the old school way, from scratch. I have to say I am amazed at how well Rocky laid all the different materials out and explained to the men how to select items and size their bandoliers to their individual stature. I just didn't think there would be enough time to put them together with that level of detail and uniqueness. I was completely amazed at how beautiful the bandoliers turned out. Each with its own patterns and made to the specifications of the maker and the pride on the faces of the men at what they had accomplished. All the while, Rocky remained calm, patient and determined to help teach every man how to design and construct his very own bandolier from scratch. Linda was no less amazing with her picture taking for Tribal ID cards and her level of involvement in helping people with enrollment. While only the folks at CPN Tribal Rolls are able to actually process enrollment applications, Linda provided vital assistance gathering and organizing their documentation easing their stress levels and actually making the enrollment process fun. I'm just amazed at how caring and understanding she is and her willingness to roll up her sleeves and help. I have so much respect and gratitude for these leaders of our tribe and I'm forever grate-



Tiffany Jones with a completed purse made during the regalia making class.

ful for them helping make the event so enjoyable for everyone. *Igwien* Chairman Barrett and Vice-Chairman Linda Capps.

The women's craft proved to be challenging as the purse kits were expert level kits that required much more time to create than the time we had to allot. The materials were top notch but the instructions were a bit sketchy for novice crafters to say the least. But in the end Representative Mark Johnson's lovely wife Rita was victorious and overcame the difficult task of teaching the women how to make a purse. A few purses were completed in the time allotted but keep in mind that these purses were designed to be used by professional dancers in competitive dancing so the level of detail a person wanted to include was limitless. In the end all walked away with the knowledge to complete their purse and the experience of working with many other women, some mothers and daughters

and grand daughters all at the same table. It was so fun to watch the intensity and determination they all shared as they worked together. *Igwien* Rita Johnson for not only your willingness to help, but also for never giving up and having an always pleasant attitude.

One of the things that puts a smile on my face when I think about it is all the children running around having a good time being outdoors. There was so much for them to explore. When children are around other children outdoors they will always find something to do! *Migwetch* to Sable our face painter. Her creativity and imagination were on display using the faces of our children as her canvas. Her gentleness and passion for her craft showed and the artwork she produced while at the event in between face paintings was just beautiful. The six pieces she created as worked and talked with others all sold in the silent auction. I was for-



Michael Rhodd holds his granddaughter Lillian Rhodd, the gathering's youngest attendee, alongside Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett.

District 6 - Rande K. Payne continued

tunate enough to be the only bidder on one of her pieces and walked away with one her works for only \$20. It is proudly displayed in my office now. But what I hope more than anything is that the face painting and the experience of the event overall will have sparked something inside the children that would cause them to want to know more about their heritage and instill a sense of connection and pride in being Native American. I believe that our heritage festival should consist of honoring our past, being reminded of what we value most and focusing on preserving our heritage for future generations.

There are many more people worthy of appreciation but unfortunately I must honor the space allowed and begin closing this month's

column. But I do want to say that it was my pleasure working with Representative Mark Johnson putting on this event. I look forward to working with him again and again. And I just want to express my sincere gratitude for my wife Kim. The food was nothing short of amazing. My focus was on authentic. Her focus was on good. So there was a lot of trial and error trying to find that perfect balance of authentic and edible. No easy task especially when it's husband and wife, but in the end I think everyone won. I think our ancestors would be proud!

And most importantly, I want to thank all the folks from districts 6 and 7 for taking the time to be part of our heritage celebration. I think it's awesome when families that



Wisest in attendance, Imogene Huffman.

haven't seen each other for a long time can get together because they are Potawatomi and when people discover that someone at the table next to them is their cousin they've never met. It was great to have Chief Justice Angela Riley and her beau-

tiful family at the Festival. What an honor it was to be part of her and her daughters naming ceremonies and the naming ceremonies of the Black sisters. So thank you all very, very much! I hope last year's heritage festival was enjoyable for you and

I invite you to join us again this year!

In closing, I want to give thanks to my Creator for all that I hold dear. This little piece of Mother Earth I've been given to care for somehow now feels sacred. Having a Potawatomi gathering here is such an enormous blessing in my life. *Igwien Menedo!*

Wisdom from the Word: "Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him." Psalm 127:3

Bama pi,
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Bozho nikanek,
(Hello friends)

On November 5-6, I had the pleasure of co-hosting with Rande Payne the first annual District 6 and District 7 Potawatomi Heritage Festival in Visalia, California. The event had a tremendous turnout and great participation in the events over the two days. We were excited to be joined by Chairman Barrett and Vice-Chairman Capps for both days. Those who attended the festival were able to spend one on one time with both in a re-



A bandolier bag made at our gathering.

District 7 - Mark Johnson

laxing atmosphere, and even had the chance to learn the art of men's bandolier making from Chairman Barrett, while my wife Rita worked with the ladies on Buckskin purses.

Kids of all sizes participated in the archery competition and had a great time, while Vice-Chairman Capps took about 80 pictures of members who needed new Tribal ID cards that were mailed out to them the following week. Those in attendance on Saturday had sandwiches for lunch and then were treated to a great sit down dinner prepared by Rande's wife, Kim, of roasted turkey, wild rice, squash, and fry bread topped off with pumpkin pie and blueberry cobbler.

Sunday morning found the chairman and vice-chairman holding naming ceremonies around the ceremonial fire followed by a breakfast feast also prepared by Kim. Rande and I are grateful for those who attended, and we were both overwhelmed by the positive feedback from those in attendance, we were glad to be able to provide a small slice of the Family Heritage Festival held in Shawnee to our members here in California, and we hope to provide more opportunities in the future. It was also great to see our members from California and Nevada have a chance to visit and find relatives and family connections that they didn't know before the gathering.

In December and May our tribal newspaper runs the names of Potawatomi who graduate from high school or college, but I'd like to personally congratulate one of District 7's grads who was not included in the December 2016 newspaper. Clovis, California's Lindsay Ann Miller graduated from CSU Fresno with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Animal Science/Equine Option, joining dozens of fellow tribal members from across the country who graduated this past semester. Congratulations to her and all of the District 7 graduates.

Once again, I would like to say what an honor it is to serve you as your District 7 representative. As always, give me a call and I will be happy to work with you on any questions you may have, or provide you with additional information you may need to access tribal benefits that you are entitled to. Please also take the time to give me a call or send me an email with your contact information so that I can keep you informed of the happenings within the Nation and district.

Migwetch / Thank You,
Mark Johnson / *Wisk Mtek*
(Strong as a Tree)
Representative, District 7
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Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett gives instructions on bandolier making.



Mark with Rande Payne, who is much taller in real life than this photo demonstrates.

Legislators are not able to retrieve your contact information from Tribal Rolls
Please contact your legislator so that you can receive important information



District 8 - Dave Carney

Bozho,

Thank you to all of the members that made it to the Fall Feast in November. We had almost 100 RSVPs, but actually had about 80 attendees. Portland was experiencing post-election riots that evening, so I think there were members that did not want to come into the city that night.

We had presentations about two founding families – the Slavins and the Andersons. We also had an overview of the Nation's history, government and enterprises. I was able to obtain high quality photos of some of the CPN Cultural Heritage Center's collection of objects from

everyday life of our ancestors and regalia items. If you would like a copy of the PowerPoint with these two groupings, please email me.

Awards were made to Warren Morris as our "wisest member" present and George Fuller as our youngest, and arguably cutest member present.

One of the fun things we have been doing for a few years now is our Native American art contest. Typically, we have three categories: fine arts, crafts and youth.

In the first two categories we had many excellent entries. Winners were Clyde Slavin of Vancouver, Oregon for his multi-media art that depicted an Ojibway woman on the water bank. This unique piece was made of re-purposed wood, stained glass and a carved figure. Very beautiful work.

The winner of the craft category was Andy Burns of

Astoria, Oregon for a traditional Chinook style hand woven hat, adorned with an immature bald eagle feather. Andy explained to the group how he created the hat from harvesting the tree to make the caning material to weave.

The evening wrapped up with a simple craft – key chains were made with pony beads that were the colors of the medicine wheel. I owe a debt of gratitude to Natalie Mitchell Fuller and Jacqueline Mitchell Keeney who instructed the group and took charge of the project after a last minute illness of the planned instructor.

In December and May our tribal newspaper runs graduation announcements, but occasionally some miss being included. One such CPN graduate is Tara Nicole Lehmann, who graduated in December with a BS in Natural Resources with a specialty in Forest Ecosystem Perspectives and Management from Oregon State University. Congratulations to Tara and all the graduates from December.

I hope that the holidays were fun and family filled and that 2017 is off to a great start for you!

Happy New Year

Migwetch,

Dave Carney/Kagasghi
dcarney@potawatomi.org
 360-259-4027



Andy Burns, craft winner.



George Fuller, youngest in attendance.



Clyde Slavin, fine arts winner.



District 13 - Bobbi Bowden

Bozho,

Hoping everyone survived the hustle and bustle of the holiday season and 2017 is off to a great start for each of you.

As I sit writing this, I am thinking about my New Year's resolutions. Of course there are the usual ones; get in shape, lose weight, do bet-

ter on finances, spend more time with family and friends. This year I am going to add a new one and that is to learn more about our culture and ceremonies. We have so many tribal members who have so much knowledge to pass along. I need to take advantage of the lessons they can teach. Even though I have been a legislative representative for close to nine years, I have so much to learn, starting with our culture and traditions.

Sometimes I am reluctant to ask because I feel like they are things I should already know. But how would I know if I haven't asked anyone to teach me?

This year I am going to go out of my comfort zone and ask questions and learn as much as possible so I am able to pass it along to my children and family members. To any of those in the same boat I often find myself in, I encourage you to join me in sharing what you learn along the way. If any of you have suggestions or things you wish to learn about please email me at Bbowden@potawatomi.org and we can learn together!

Each year I plan to get new regalia. I add a few pieces every year but it is time to retire my beautiful ribbon shirt and skirt that I love so much! Time has a way of getting

away from me each year and before you know it, it is too late, and there is no time to have something made. If you are interested in having regalia made and have it before our Family Reunion Festival in June you must get started on it as soon as possible. I will do my best to get you in touch with some of the talented seamstresses that are tribal members who can provide you with a pattern if you have the "sewing gene" (that I do not have) or help you find someone able to make it for you. Even if there is not time to have it for Festival this year, you can certainly have it for next year!

I look forward to sharing any and all things I learn and welcome any of your questions, ideas and teachings!

Wishing each of you a healthy and happy 2017!

It is an honor and a pleasure to serve you and our great nation.

Migwetch,

Bobbi Bowden
Peshknokwe
 District 13 Representative
bbowden@potawatomi.org

Citizen Potawatomi Nation
HOUSING DEPT.



Call (405) 273-2833 or (800)880-9880



Frederick M. Taylor

Sadly, Alzheimer’s disease claimed yet another victim. On Nov. 10, 2016 Frederick M. Taylor, age 88, walked on from this life to the next. He died at home surrounded by his family and his loving wife Elaine. Also present was his faithful canine companion, Willie.

Fred was born June 17, 1928 in Parsons, Kansas. He was lovingly raised by his paternal grandparents, William and Nancy Taylor, in Vinita, Oklahoma. Proud of his Native American heritage, Fred was Potawatomi on his maternal side and Cherokee on this paternal side.

At age 17, Fred enlisted in the army. Picked for OCS, Lt. Taylor was assigned to Germany at the end of WWII. After his tour of duty, Fred chose the University of Mary-

land to study engineering. Falling in love with the DC area, and its golf courses, Fred stayed after college. There he met and married the love of his life, Elaine Dillon.

Restless after retirement, Fred pursued volunteer work and became a Stephen’s Minister. That ultimately led to his finally answering God’s call to an ordained ministry, and his ordination into the diaconate followed by the priesthood in the Episcopal Missionary Church.

Prior to his marriage to Elaine, Fred was married to Mary Betsy Taylor (nee Colbert). From this marriage were born four children.

Preceding Fred in death were his beloved grandparents: Will and Nancy Taylor; father: Fred Taylor;

mother: Florence Newkirk; sister: Lillian Wolverton; brother: Charles Newkirk; daughter: Angela Kihega (nee Taylor); and great-granddaughter: Lilleigh.

He is survived by wife of 50 years: Elaine; daughter: Shelley (Dean) of Fayetteville, Arkansas; sons: Timothy (Dorothy) of Bemidji, Minnesota, George Frederic Colbert Taylor, Robert Taylor, J.D. Colbert (formerly Taylor); daughter: Nancy Largent (Kavin) of Gallup, New Mexico; twelve grandchildren; and eleven great-grandchildren.

Memorial service and inurnment were held at St. Theodore’s Episcopal Church.

Submitting obituaries

To submit an obituary, please send a word document with **no more than 300 words**, a 300dpi photo and a contact phone number to hownikan@potawatomi.org.

CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls

The \$2,000 CPN Burial Assistance Fund is automatically available to all enrolled CPN members. You may fill out a burial assistance fund form if you would like for us to keep it on file in case of any change in resolutions.

Please note: Once a CPN Tribal member has passed, the Tribal Rolls office must

be notified in order for CPN to provide burial funding. Information and instructions for the burial process will be sent to the next of kin and will be discussed then.

For more information please call Tribal Rolls at 405-878-5835 or email CClark@Potawatomi.org.



A Funeral Prayer

Hau ndenwémagnek
Ho my relatives

Ébyé yak shote gnom
We have come here today

Éwi nesh myé yak ode wdenwéma
To lay our brother to rest

Ngom she épam sét ode
Today he walks

Ga wje zhyé wat gi gambojek
Among those who have passed on

I yé i ébgednoyak ode ngemwen
That is why we offer this song

Émno shketot wa je
zhyat ibe shpemsegok
That his journey will go
well where he goes above

Iw énaj moyan
That’s all I have to say

A Potawatomi prayer for a specific
lovedone who has walked on.

By Don Perrot